

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. 333 Commerce Street, Suite 2101 Nashville, TN 37201-3300

guy.hicks@bellsouth.com

Guy M. Hicks General Counsel

Fax 615 214 7406

January 26, 2001

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mr. David Waddell, Executive Secretary Tennessee Regulatory Authority 460 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, Tennessee 37243

> Second Complaint of Discount Communications Against BellSouth Re:

Telecommunications, Inc.

Docket No. 00-01151

Dear Mr. Waddell:

Enclosed are the original and thirteen copies of BellSouth's Response to Discount Communications' Motion to Require BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. to Continue Service Pending Resolution of this Proceeding. Copies of the enclosed are being provided to counsel of record for all parties.

Very truly yours,

Guy M. Hicks

GMH/jem

Enclosure

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY Nashville, Tennessee

In Re:

Second Complaint of Discount Communications Against BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

Docket No. 00-01151

BELLSOUTH'S RESPONSE TO DISCOUNT COMMUNICATIONS' MOTION TO REQUIRE BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. TO CONTINUE SERVICE PENDING RESOLUTION OF THIS PROCEEDING

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") respectfully submits that the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority") should deny Discount Communications' ("Discount") Motion to Require BellSouth to Continue Service Pending Resolution of this Proceeding (the "Motion"). The Authority should not order BellSouth to continue providing service if Discount is not paying its bills.

On January 5, 2001, Discount filed its Motion, which as will be shown below, erroneously characterized the January 4, 2001 oral deliberations of the United States Bankruptcy Court. On January 9, following a regularly-scheduled Authority Agenda Conference, the Directors discussed the Motion and posed questions to counsel for the parties, including questions regarding the status of the bankruptcy proceeding ATM/Discount Communications, Inc. had initiated on November 2, 2000.¹ During these discussions, BellSouth proposed that no action

In its Motion, Discount claimed that last year it merged with Air Time Management, Inc. and that the Staff advised that Discount need only file a name change request with the Authority rather than a petition to transfer its resale certificate. (Motion, p. 2). On February 14, 2000, Mr. Edward Hayes notified the

be taken by the Authority until after a written order was entered by the United States Bankruptcy Court memorializing the Court's January 4 oral deliberations. BellSouth voluntarily agreed to take no action to terminate Discount's service until after the Authority's regularly-scheduled Conference on January 23, 2001, thereby allowing the Authority and the parties to have the Court's written order before them before taking any further action. Discount agreed to BellSouth's proposal and the Authority voted unanimously to hold Discount's Motion in abeyance. The Authority appointed the General Counsel or his designee to make findings of fact and conclusions of law, as necessary, and to render an initial decision on the merits with respect to Discount's most recent complaint, which was filed on December 29, 2000 (the "Second Complaint").

During the January 23 Agenda Conference, the Hearing Officer made a status report to the Directors. Following the Agenda Conference, the parties met with the Hearing Officer. During the discussion with the Hearing Officer, BellSouth voluntarily agreed not to terminate Discount's service until after BellSouth had filed its response to Discount's Motion and the Hearing Officer or Authority had been

Authority that "Discount Communications has undergone a name change" to ATM/Discount Communications (see Exhibit 1). This name change was approved by the Authority on February 29, 2000. There is nothing in the Secretary of State's records to substantiate that either the alleged merger or name change actually took place. Indeed, those records demonstrate that Air Time Management, Inc. was dissolved effective 5/19/00 (see Exhibit 2). ATM Discount Communications, Inc., the entity which filed bankruptcy, was a separate corporation which was not issued a charter until April 10, 2000 (see Exhibit 3). ATM Discount Communications, Inc. has never sought certification as a reseller and is not a party to BellSouth's agreement with Discount Communications, a sole proprietorship.

provided the opportunity to review BellSouth's proposal with respect to the provision of service to Discount's customers by BellSouth at such time as BellSouth may terminate Discount's service.

The Bankruptcy Court entered its written order on January 22, 2001. The Order provides that: (1) effective ten days after entry of its Order, the automatic stay previously entered pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362 is completely lifted with respect to BellSouth, which restores BellSouth to all of its pre-petition rights; (2) BellSouth and the Debtor are free to exercise whatever rights they deem appropriate before the Authority; (3) the Debtor's (ATM Discount Communications, Inc.) motion to assume the executory (resale) contract between BellSouth and Discount is denied and that no executory contract exists between the Debtor and BellSouth; and (4) nothing in the order should be deemed to require BellSouth to accept future payments from the Debtor or shall be deemed a waiver of BellSouth's rights in the event such payments are accepted.²

In support of the Motion, counsel for Discount stated to the Authority on January 9 that ". . . the bankruptcy judge has now put it [the case] back in your lap." (Jan. 9 Tr., p. 37). Judge Brown's Order contains no such instructions. Indeed the Order clearly does not require the Authority to take any action whatsoever with respect to Discount. The Order merely states the obvious -- that

A copy of the January 22nd Order Denying Debtor's Motion to Assume or Reject Executory Contract and Granting Motion to Lift Automatic Stay, Case No. 00-33928-B is attached as Exhibit 4.

the parties are free to exercise whatever rights they deem appropriate before the Authority.

For the reasons set forth below, the Authority should decline Discount's request to enjoin BellSouth from terminating service. First, it is important to understand that undisputed sums remain owing by Discount to BellSouth. Indeed, Discount's counsel acknowledged as much when responding to questions posed by the Directors during the January 9 Agenda Conference (see Jan. 9 Tr., p. 49).

Second, the \$2,500 per day escrow payment and \$50,000 security deposit were ordered by the Court as adequate assurance of payment for post-petition services provided by BellSouth. See Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Court's Order Granting Motion of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. for Adequate Protection and to Lift Automatic Stay entered December 4, 2000, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 5. There is no dispute that substantial undisputed pre-petition amounts remain unpaid by Discount. Indeed, the undisputed amounts referenced in the parties' joint letter of November 2, 2000 remain unpaid to this date. The \$2,500 per day escrow payments and \$50,000 deposit, therefore, provide no protection whatsoever to BellSouth with respect to past due amounts that were incurred prior to the filling of the bankruptcy petition on November 2, 2000. BellSouth agrees with Directors Malone and Greer that a sufficient amount of time has elapsed for Discount to pay undisputed amounts. (Jan. 9 Tr., p. 50).

The parties' joint letter of November 2, 2000, which was requested by the Authority, is attached as Exhibit 6.

Third, such escrow payments and security deposit are insufficient even to protect BellSouth even on a going-forward basis. The most current bill sent to Discount (January 4, 2001) shows a balance of \$88,494, exclusive of Directory Assistance charges. Obviously, this is substantially a greater amount than what is being paid into escrow each month by Discount. Discount is currently paying \$2,500 per business day into escrow, or approximately \$52,500 per month (\$2,500 x 21 business days).

Further, Discount's invitation to embroil the Staff and the Authority in a new round of billing claims should be declined. Discount's January 5 Motion requests that the Authority direct BellSouth to "take no action to terminate or impair service to Discount while the Staff is investigating Discount's complaint." Contrary to Discount's argument that the Authority has a duty to investigate every conceivable billing dispute, BellSouth submits that the Authority has already completed the work the parties asked it to do. The Authority convened a contested case, took testimony, reviewed briefs, deliberated, and made decisions on the issues the parties submitted in Docket No. 00-00230. Discount won one issue and lost the other. After losing that issue and acknowledging to the Authority that substantial amounts of undisputed funds were due and owing, Discount attempted to shield itself with bankruptcy by filing a bankruptcy petition under the name of ATM Discount Communications, Inc., a legal entity which, as the bankruptcy court found, is not even a party to the reseller agreement with BellSouth. Moreover, ATM Discount Communications, Inc. is not the entity which initiated the earlier complaint against BellSouth and has never been certified by the Authority to be a reseller of telecommunications service. Finding that ATM Discount Communications, Inc. is not a party to any contract with BellSouth, the stay has been lifted completely.

The latest round of billing claims Discount offers simply do not address the undisputed amounts owed or present issues the Hearing Officer must decide. The Authority's Order of January 12, 2001 states that the Hearing Officer should "make findings of fact and conclusions of law as necessary" regarding the Second Complaint (emphasis added). The Order therefore allows the Hearing Officer to make a finding that material undisputed sums remain owing, the stay has been lifted, and BellSouth is free to take action to terminate service to Discount. BellSouth submits that neither the Hearing Officer nor the Authority has an obligation to run down every thread of every alleged billing dispute. Indeed, Discount's Second Complaint says as much: ("Since these billing disputes involve primarily questions of fact and do not appear to raise any novel legal or regulatory issues " (See p. 1 of Second Complaint)).

BellSouth has worked in good faith to resolve disputes with Discount and in many cases has given Discount the benefit of the doubt on claims in order to emphasize the critical point that even assuming for the sake of argument that Discount is correct on certain billing claims, a substantial and ever increasing undisputed amount remains owed. BellSouth requests that the Hearing Officer deny Discount's request to enjoin BellSouth from taking any action to impair

services "while the Staff is investigating Discount's complaint." Otherwise, Discount will simply file a new complaint at such time as the Staff finishes its investigation of the most recent complaint. This cycle simply should not be allowed to continue, particularly where it is undisputed that substantial amounts remain unpaid. Assuming BellSouth terminates Discount's services, BellSouth will voluntarily agree to accept Discount's customers based on the following:

BellSouth will assume responsibility for providing service to the existing customers of Discount on the date that BellSouth terminates service to Discount. Beginning on that date, BellSouth will begin changing the service records of Discount's customers to reflect BellSouth as the service provider. Although this process may require several weeks to complete, the change will be effective on the date that BellSouth terminates service to Discount, and BellSouth will not bill Discount for any services to these customers after this termination date. Service to Discount's customers will not be interrupted, and BellSouth will waive the \$20 reconnection charge that is normally applied in this situation. As customers are switched, BellSouth will send a letter to each customer explaining the change in their service provider and advising the customer that they are not obligated to keep their BellSouth service, but are free to choose any other service provider.

Once this conversion is completed, BellSouth will treat these customers in accordance with current tariffs. Any customers with an outstanding balance from a previous BellSouth account will be allowed up to one year to address this outstanding balance under the terms and conditions of BellSouth's Tariff A2.4.3.I. Other matters, including credit history information, deposit requirements (if any), and documentation to qualify for Lifeline service will be addressed under the terms and conditions of the applicable BellSouth tariffs and as required by federal and state law.

BellSouth's proposal is a good faith attempt to address the Directors' concerns with respect to the provision of service to Discount's customers at such time as BellSouth may terminate Discount's service. BellSouth's proposal will

result in customers paying BellSouth's tariffed rates, which are lower than those charged by Discount. Of course, as stated above, Discount's customers are free to use a service provider other than BellSouth. In order to effectuate this customer transition, BellSouth requests that the Hearing Officer approve BellSouth's proposal for accepting Discount's customers. This flexibility is necessary because of the potential argument that BellSouth's acceptance of these customers without Authority or Hearing Officer approval would pose a technical violation to the Authority's slamming rules. Alternatively, BellSouth should be allowed to terminate service to Discount and Discount should notify its customers of alternative service providers. Under the latter alternative, BellSouth would assume no obligation to accept Discount customers under the terms proposed above.

CONCLUSION

The Authority should not order BellSouth to continue providing service if Discount is not paying its bills. BellSouth's voluntary, good faith proposal for accepting Discount's customers should be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Guy M. Hicks

333 Commerce Street, Suite 2101 Nashville, Tennessee 37201-3300

(615) 214-6301

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on January 26, 2001, a copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties of record, via the method indicated:

| [] | Hand | Henry Walker, Esquire |
|-----|-----------|----------------------------------|
| [] | Mail | Boult, Cummings, Conners & Berry |
| M | Facsimile | 414 Union Avenue, #1600 |
| [] | Overnight | Post Office Box 198062 |
| | J | Nashville, Tennessee 37219-8062 |
| [] | Hand | Vance Broemel, Esquire |
| [] | Mail | Consumer Advocate Division |
| M | Facsimile | 426 Fifth Avenue North |
| | Overnight | Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0500 |
| | | |
| | | |



Discount Communications

"Your Complete Telecommunications Provider"

3798 Park Ave

Memphis, TN 38111-4684 Phone ... (901) 843-6070 Toll Free 888 589-6505 Fax... (901) 327-2809 RECULATION OUTS.

'00 FEB 14 AM 11 14

EXECUTIVE CECRETARY

00-00110

To: Tennessee Regulatory Authority, Executive Secretary

Dear Mr. David Waddell,

This letter is to serve as notice that Discount Communications has undergone a name change. The new name for Discount Communications is Transported Communications. The address for ATM/Discount Communications is 3798 Park Ave. Memphis, TN. 38111. Please allow all previous and future records reflect this change.

Thanking You in Advance,

Edward Hayes
President



EXHIBIT 2

Secretary of State
Division of Business Services
312 Eighth Avenue North
6th Floor, William R. Snodgrass Tower
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

ISSUANCE DATE: 01/10/2001 REQUEST NUMBER: 01010534

CHARTER/QUALIFICATION DATE: 08/25/1998 STATUS: ADMIN DESSOLVED CORPORATE EXPIRITION DATE: PERPETUAL CONTROL NUMBER: 0356390 JURISDICTION: TENNESSEE

TO: THE SEARCH IS ON PO BOX 330007

NASHVILLE, TN 37203

REQUESTED BY: THE SEARCH IS ON PO BOX 330007

NASHVILLE, TN 37203

I, RILEY C DARNELL, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF TINNESSEE DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT

"AIR TIME MANAGEMENT, INC."

WAS INCORPORATED OR QUALIFIED TO DO BUSINESS IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE ON THE ABOVE DATE, AND THAT THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT(S) WAS/WERE FILED IN OFFICE ON THE DATE(S) AS BELOW INDICATED:

| REFERENCE | DATE FILED | FILING TYPE | NAM DUR STK PRN OFC AGT INC MAL FYC |
|----------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| NUMBER 3550-1547 ROLL 3833 | 08/25/1998 12/01/1999 02/18/2000 | CHART-PROFIT AN RPT DETERMINATION ADM/DISSOLUTION | |
| ROLL 3915 | 05/19/2000 | MDII/ DIOCOTO I I CA | |

FOR: REQUEST FOR COPIES

1900 CHURCH STREET NASHVILLE, TN 37203-0000

FROM: TSIO SUITE 400 ON DATE: 01/10/01

FEES

RECEIVED:

\$100.00

\$0.00

TOTAL PAYMENT RECEIVED:

\$100.00

RECEIPT NUMBER: 00002783511 ACCOUNT NUMBER: 00333725

S ACRUCULTURA

RILEY C. DARNELL SECRETARY OF STATE CHARTER

O F

| y · | | | |
|---------------|--|--|---|
| | AIR AIR | TIME MANAGEMENT, INC. | |
| | The undersigned person(s) under the Tennessee Bu above listed corporation: | isiness Corporation Act adopt(s) the following | charter for the |
| A | A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR | ME MANAGEMENT, INC. | • |
| | 1. The name of the corporation is ALK 111 | The same and a different of the same and the | ·• |
| , . | Process Control of Transaction Control | The second secon | |
| | [NOTE: Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated Section of "corporation", "Incorporated" or "company" | or the abbreviation "corp.", "inc." or "co." | is contain the |
| *** | 2. The number of shares of stock the corporation is | authorized to issue is | |
| | , 50,000 | | |
| ; * ; · ; · ; | 3. (a) The complete address of the corporation's initi | al registered office in Tempesee is | |
| ٠ | 3340 POPLAR AVENUE, SHITE 314 | MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE | 38111 |
| | Street Address SHELRY | City | State. Zip Code |
| A | [NOTE: A street address, a zip code and the county are | required by Tennessee Code Annotated Section 4 | 18-12-102(a)(3).] |
| • | (b) The name of the initial registered agent, to be | Incorred on the address listed in 3631, is | • |
| | | tocated at the authors from the control | |
| | MORRIS HARRIS, JR. | | · • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • |
| | 4. The name and complete address of each incorpora | atur is: | |
| | NEAL LABOVITZ 1850 OAKRUN | COVE GERNANTOWN, TN | 38138 |
| | Name | Address | Zin Code |
| | | | |
| | Name | Address | Zip Cixle |
| | , | | • |
| | Name | Address | Zip Code |
| | PRIOTES to address and air and are but and | 1 m 10 19 |) Marie III P |
| | [NOTE: An address and zip code are both required | • | installabil |
| | S. The complete address of the corporation's princip | pal office is: | |
| | 3340 POPLAR AVNEUE SUITE 314. | MENPUIS, TENNESSEE (SHELBY | 38111 |
| | Street Address City | State/Country · | Zip Code |
| | [NOTE: A street address and a zip code are both re- | quired by Tennessee Code Annorated Section | 48-12-102(a)(\$).[|
| | 6. The corport - i for profit. | | |
| | 7. Other provisions: | | |
| • | [NOTE: Insert here any provision(s) desired and per | rmitted by law, Examples; names and addresse | s of persons serv- |
| | ing as the initial board of directors, business purpose | e(s) of the corporation, management or regula | tion of affairs of |
| | the cornoration, provision limiting the account liabi | lity of disserce for mountary damages fat ht | carlı Al Biliciaes |

duty, etc. See Tennessee Code Annotated Section 48-12-102(b).]

Signature Date

THE RESERVE AND THE

A STATE OF STATE OF THE STATE O

NEAL LABOVITZ

Incorporator's Name (typed or printed)

SECRETARY OF STATE CORPORATIONS SECTION JAMES K. POLK BUILDING TESUANCE DATE CENTROL NUMBER

MORRIS HARRIS. 3340 POPLAR AVENUE SUITE 314 MEMPHIS, TH 38111

RE! AIR TIME MANAGEMENT, INC

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 48-24-201 or 48-25-301 of the Tennessee Business Corporation Act or Sections 48-64-201 or 48-65-301 of the Tennessee Nonprefit Corporation Act; it has been determined that the following ground(s) exist(s) for the administrative dissolution of the above corporation, if a Tennessee corporation, or the revocation of its certificate of authority, if a foreign corporation:

The Corporation Annual Report which was due on or before 12/01/99 has not been filed. To obtain an annual report form or for additional information, please call this office at (615) 741-2286:

If the corporation does not correct such ground for dissolution or revocation or provide evidence that each ground does not exist within two (2) months after issuance date of evidence that each ground does not exist within two (2) months after issuance date of evidence that each ground does not exist within two (2) months after issuance date of evidence number dissolved or may have its certificate of authority revoked, as appropriate. For assistance in this regard, please contact this office at the appropriate telephone number listed above.

4.707 3 33.5

SECRETARY OF STATE CORPORATIONS SECTION JAMES K. POLK BUILDING SUITE 1800 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0306

EFFECTIVE DATE: TELEPHONE CONTACT: 05/19/00 (615) 741-2286 0356390 CONTROL NUMBER:

MORRIS HARRIS, JR. 3340 POPLAR AVENUE SUITE 314 MEMPHIS, TN 38111

TO SUPPLIE DE LA CONTRACTOR DE LA CONTRA

RE: AIR TIME MANAGEMENT, INC.

CERTIFICATE OF ADMINISTRATIVE DISSOLUTION

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 48-24-202 or 42-25-302 of the Tennessee Business Corporation Act or Sections 48-64-202 or 48-65-302 of the Tennessee Nonprofit Corporation Act, respectively, this constitutes notice that the above corporation, and any associated assumed name(s) is hereby administratively dissolved, if a Tennessee corporation, or that its certificate of authority is revoked, if a foreign corporation, for the following reason(s): the following reason(s):

For failure to file the Corporation Annual Report, as required by Chapter 16 of the Tennessee Business Corporation Act or the Tennessee Honprofit Corporation Act.

The corporation or its certificate of authority may be reinstated upon the elimination of the above indicated ground(s) and the filing of an application for reinstatement. The corporate name must be available and otherwise satisfy the requirements of Section 48-14-101 of the Tennessee Business Corporation Act or Section 48-54-101 of the Tennessee Nonprofit Corporation Act. The reinstatement application fee is Seventy Dollars (\$70,00).

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Secretary of State
Division of Business Services
312 Eighth Avenue North
h Floor, William R. Snodgrass Tower
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

ISSUANCE DATE: 01/10/2001 REQUEST NUMBER: 01010534

CHARTER/QUALIFICATION DATE: 04/10/2000 STATUS: ACTIVE CORPORATE EXPIRATION DATE: PERPETUAL CONTROL NUMBER: 0387702 JURISDICTION: TINNESSEE

TO: THE SEARCH IS ON PO BOX 330007

NASHVILLE, TN 37203

REQUESTED BY: THE SEARCH IS CN PO BOX 330007

NASHVILLE, TN 27203

I, RILEY C DARNELL, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF THUNESSEE DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT

"ATM / DISCOUNT COMMUNICATIONS, INC."

WAS INCORPORATED OR QUALIFIED TO DO BUSINESS IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE ON THE ABOVE DATE, AND THAT THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT(S) WAS/WERE FILED IN OFFICE ON THE DATE(S) AS BELOW INDICATED:

REFERENCE NUMBER 3880-0198 DATE FILED

FILING TYPE

FILING ACTION
NAM EUR STK PRN OFC AGT INC MAL FYC

04/10/2000 CHART-PROFIT

FOR: REQUEST FOR COPIES

1900 Church Street Nashville, TN 37203-0000 ON DATE: 01/10/01

FEES

RECEIVED:

\$100.00

\$0.00

TOTAL PAYMENT RECEIVED:

S100.00

RECEIPT NUMBER: 00002783511 ACCOUNT NUMBER: 00333725

AGAICU PI ME

BUITE 400

RILEY C. DARNELL SECRETARY OF STATE 21337 17:532

| the of Temessee | RECEIVED STREET TO THE | FOR CASE OF SECRE |
|--|--|--|
| STATE OF STATE | CHARTER | 1 |
| Secretarit of State 00 | pR 10 (Kir Profit Corporation) | 2 CO FEB 28 PH 1:50 |
| Comparities Section | | |
| Nashville, TN 37243-0306 SEC | RETARY OF STATE | STATE |
| The undersigned acting as incorporate preparation Act adopts the following Act adopts the follow | r(s) of a for-profit corporation under the pr ticles of incorporation. | ovisions of the Tennessee Business |
| The name of the corporation as | ations, Inc. | |
| orporation, incorporated, or company o | | |
| The number of shares of stock the | e corporation is authorized to issue is: | 30,000 |
| The name and complete address o | f the corporation's initial registered agent | and office located in the |
| tate of Tannasace la: Edward Maurice Bayes, 37 | 98 Park Avenue Memphis, TN 38 | 3111 |
| (Name) | , | |
| (Street Address) | (City) | (State/Zip Code) |
| Shelby (County) | | |
| 4. List the name and complete addr | ess of each incorporator. | |
| Marcus D. Ward | 3675 Woodglade Lane | Hemphis, TN 38116 |
| (Name) | (Include: Street Address, City, Store | and Zip Code) |
| (Name) | (Street Address, City, State and Zip | Code) |
| (Name) | (Streat Address, City, State and Ep | Code) |
| 5. The complete address of the cor | poration's principal office is: | • |
| 3798 Park Avenue | Memphis | TN 38111 |
| | (City) | (State/Country/Zip Code) ···· |
| 6. The corporati is for profit. | Complete Control of the Control of t | |
| .7." If the docume ' is not to be effect | tive upon fling by the Secretary of State, t | the delayed effective date and time are: |
| . Data | , Time | (Not to exceed 90 days.) |
| Date | , | |
| 8. Other provis: | · | ^ |
| None | | |
| 2-25-00 | Mary I | |
| Signature Date | FCOrporator & Orgnatule | |
| | Marcus D. Ward, | Esq. |
| | | |
| CC.4417 (Roy 10/99) | | |
| SS-4417 (Rev. 10/99) | | RDA 1678 |



UNITED STATES SANKTOPICY COURS WESTERN DIVISION FILED

JAN 22 2001

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE WESTERN DIVISION

LED G. WEINTRAUB

In re:

ATM DISCOUNT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Case No. 00-33928-B

Debtor.

Chapter 11

ORDER DENYING DEBTOR'S MOTION TO ASSUME OR RELECT EXECUTORY CONTRACT AND GRANTING MOTION TO LIFT AUTOMATIC STAY

This matter came to be heard on January 4, 2001, upon the motion of the Debtor ATM Discount Communications, Inc. to assume an executory contract dated March 13, 1998, by and between Discount Communications and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("Bellsouth"), and the objection of BellSouth thereto, and upon BellSouth's motion to lift automatic stay. Upon statement of counsel for the parties, and upon the entire record in this cause, the court made oral findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 7052 which are incorporated herein by reference. Based on the record before the court, the court finds that the Debtor, ATM Disount Communications, Inc., is not a party to the contract between Discount Communications, a sole proprietorship owned by Ed Hayes, and BellSouth. Accordingly, the court finds that no executory contract exists between the Debtor and BellSouth and accordingly, the Debtor's motion to assume the executory contract should be and is hereby denied. In light of the court's finding, the court further finds that cause exists to completely lift the automatic stay pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362 with respect to BellSouth and to restore BellSouth to all of its prepetition rights and the stay is hereby lifted. BellSouth and the Debtor are free to exercise whatever rights they deem appropriate before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority.

ATM DISCOUNT COMMUNICATIONS INC.>Case No. 00-33928-B ORDER DENYING DEBTOR'S MOTION TO ASSUME OR REJECT EXECUTORY CONTRACT AND GRANTING MOTION TO LIFT AUTOMATIC STAY

The court further finds that the lifting of the automatic stay pursuant to this order will not be effective until ten (10) days after entry of this order. Pending any appeal of this order, the Debtor may continue escrowing payments of \$2500 per day in accordance with this court's order of November 30, 2000 provided further that nothing in this order shall be deemed to require BellSouth to accept future payments from this Debtor or shall be deemed a waiver of BellSouth's rights in the event such payments are accepted. Pending further order of the court, the \$50,000 security deposit paid to BellSouth pursuant to this court's order of November 30, 2000 shall be retained by BellSouth.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

JANUARY DATED:

2 2 2001

APPROVED:

WARING COX PLC

Michael P. Coury #7002

Kimberly E. Sands #20274

50 N. Front Street, Suite 1300

Memphis, Tennessee 38103

901-543-8000

Attorneys for BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

WHITE STATES BUILDING COURT NESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE MINUE CURY ATTEST

> JED G. WEINTRAUB OF COURT

ATM DISCOUNT COMMUNICATIONS INC.>C256 No. 00-33928-B ORDER DENYING DEBTOR'S MOTION TO ASSUME OR REJECT EXECUTORY CONTRACT AND GRANTING MOTION TO LIFT AUTOMATIC STAY

LAW OFFICE OF NEAL LABOVITZ

| By: Neal Labovitz 916 Fern Cliff Cove, Suite 1B Southaven, MS 38671 |
|--|
| LAW OFFICE OF LARRY DIAMOND |
| By: |

Sean Haynes

cc:



WITTEN STATES BURKELFTOY COUNT.
WESTERN DIVISION
FILED
DEC: D.4 2000 M.H.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE WESTERN DIVISION NOV 30 2000 DP,

CLERK OF COURT

HED G. WEINTRAUB CLERK OF COURT BETHIN DISTRICT OF JENN

ATM DISCOUNT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Case No. 00-33928-B

Debtor.

Chapter 11

ORDER GRANTING MOTION OF BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR ADEQUATE PROTECTION AND TO LIFT AUTOMATIC STAY

This matter came to be heard on November 21, 2000, upon the Motion of Bellsouth
Telecommunications, Inc.("BellSouth") seeking Adequate Protection and, in the Alternative, to
Lift Automatic Stay, and the Objection of the Debtor thereto. Upon statements of counsel for the
Debtor and BellSouth, upon the pleadings filed in this cause, and upon the entire record in this
matter, the Court finds that Debtor should be required to provide adequate assurance of payment
of post-petition service to BellSouth pursuant 11 U.S.C. § 366 and that cause exists for
modifying the automatic stay as set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that:

1. Debtor shall pay the greater of the sum of \$50,000.00 or the amount held in escrow by Boult, Cummings, Conner and Berry, P.C., to BellSouth as adequate assurance of payment of post-petition services provided by BellSouth by the close of business on November 27, 2000.



- 2. As additional adequate assurance, the Debtor shall pay the sum of \$2,500.00 per day in good funds into an account as directed by BellSouth, which amounts shall be applied by BellSouth towards the post-petition obligations of the Debtor. Such payments shall commence on November 27, 2000 and shall continue pending further orders of the Court.
- 3. The Debtor shall file with the Court on or before December 1, 2000, a motion to assume or reject any executory contracts between the Debtor and the BellSouth.
- 4. The Automatic Stay is lifted pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362 to permit BellSouth, in its discretion, to file such pleadings as BellSouth may deem appropriate with the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA) seeking authority from the TRA to provide immediate interim phone service to customers of the Debtor in the event the Debtor should voluntarily cease operations or in the event BellSouth should terminate service to the Debtor pursuant to further orders of this Court.
- 5. The Automatic Stay is lifted to permit both the Debtor and BellSouth to seek whatever relief either party deems appropriate from the TRA or any other regulatory authority which has jurisdiction over any disputes between the Debtor and Bellsouth and to permit the parties to appeal any rulings under applicable law.
- 6. On or before December 31, 2000, the Debtor shall file a formal complaint with the TRA asserting any and all unresolved billing disputes asserted by the Debtor against BellSouth

which are subject to the jurisdiction of the TRA. Debtor shall use its best efforts to obtain an expedited resolution of any such complaint.

- 7. On or before December 1,2000, the Debtor shall submit to counsel for BellSouth an itemization of all post-petition billing disputes asserted by the Debtor with respect to any bills submitted by BellSouth to the Debtor for post-petition service.
- 8. In the event the Debtor defaults in making any of the payments set forth in paragraph number 2 above to BellSouth, BellSouth shall file a written notice of default with this Court, with copies to be served upon counsel for the Debtor and the Debtor. If the Debtor fails to cure such default within 5 days from service, then the Automatic Stay shall be lifted pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362 without further orders or hearings before this Court, and BellSouth shall be authorized to terminate service to the Debtor.
- 9. In the event of a default which is not cured by the Debtor within 5 days, BellSouth shall be authorized to apply all or part of the security deposit described in paragraph 1 to any post-petition administrative claim which remains unpaid.
- 10. Parties are directed to use their best efforts to obtain expedited relief from the TRA with respect to matters within the TRA's jurisdiction. This Court shall hold a status conference on the December 11, 2000, at which time the parties are directed to advise the Court

as to the status of any pending administrative proceedings and the post-petition status of the Debtor's account.

This Order is without prejudice of the parties to seek modification of this Order or 11. further relief from this Court for good cause shown.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

TAM HOUSTON BROWN U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

Dated: DEC 0 4 2000

JINITED STATES BANKRURTCY COURT Western District of Tennessel JED G. WEINTRAUS

CLERK OF COURT

APPROVED:

VAUGHAN & LABOVITZ

Attorney for Debtor

WARING COX, PLC

Michael P. Coury #7002 Kimberly E. Sands

Motion 🔯 Order 🖼 Other Entered on the Court docket on DO and mailed to: Deptor(s), Debtor(s) Attorney, Trustee Servicing by Court Certificate of Mailing to Matri

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50 N. Front St., Suite 1300 Memphis, TN 38103 (901) 543-8000 Attorneys for BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.



BELLSOUTH

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REC'D TH

Guy M. Hicks General Counsel

615 214-6301 Fax 615 214-7406

November 2, 2000

Richard Collier, Esquire Tennessee Regulatory Authority 460 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, Tennessee 37245

Re:

Discount Communications, Inc.

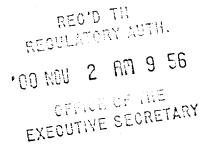
Docket No. 00-00230

Dear Mr. Collier:

This is in response to the Authority's request that the parties file a joint stipulation on the undisputed and disputed amounts. In accordance with your request, this letter will follow the format used in Discount's letter to BellSouth dated October 27, 2000.

- 1. BellSouth has confirmed receipt of a check for \$12,000 from Discount's escrow account. Therefore, that amount will be credited against the amounts owed by Discount to BellSouth.
- 2. Lifeline credit -- \$65,201.50. This amount, which was the subject of the Authority's denial of Discount's Petition for Reconsideration, is undisputed. By not disputing this amount, Discount does not waive any appeal rights it has with respect to this issue.
- 3. FCC Link-Up dispute -- \$5,481.50. The parties agree that this amount remains disputed and represents part of the Link-Up dispute issue submitted to the FCC staff.
- 4. Link-Up credits -- \$18,675. While BellSouth acknowledges that Discount is entitled to some Link-Up credits that it has not yet received, BellSouth believes that the actual amount to which Discount is entitled is less than \$18,675. In a good-faith effort to resolve this issue, however, BellSouth has agreed to credit the entire amount of \$18,675 against the other amounts owed to BellSouth.

Richard Collier, Esquire November 2, 2000 Page 2



- 5. Multiple payments -- \$26,600. This amount remains disputed, and Union Planters Bank is presently researching the matter. Although it appears that both checks were cashed and that the money was deducted from Discount's bank account, none of the routing information on the copy of the canceled check that we have a copy of indicates that it was BellSouth that cashed the check or that the money was deposited into a BellSouth bank account.
- 6. LENS system -- \$19,985. While BellSouth acknowledges that Discount is entitled to some credits to its bill with regard to this dispute, BellSouth believes the actual amount to which Discount is entitled is less than \$19,985. This amount, therefore, remains in dispute, but BellSouth is continuing to investigate the allegations set forth in Discount's letter.
 - 7. 911 dispute -- \$1,900. This amount remains in dispute.
- 8. Promotional charges -- \$4,100. While BellSouth acknowledges that Discount may be entitled to some credits to its bill with regard to this dispute, BellSouth believes the actual amount to which Discount is entitled is less than \$4,100. This amount, therefore, remains in dispute, but BellSouth is continuing to investigate the allegations set forth in Discount's letter.
- 9. Charges for third party calls -- \$1,831.35. This amount remains in dispute.
- 10. Charges for services that allegedly should have been disconnected -- \$10,000. This amount remains in dispute.
- 11. Other billing disputes, new issues (no estimate yet available). This amount remains in dispute.
- 12. The \$57,518.74 amount referenced in Discount's October 27 letter. During yesterday's meeting, Discount stated that it has offered to pay this amount to BellSouth as part of a settlement pending further investigation of the issues described above. BellSouth does not agree to this characterization and will let the letter, as well as Discount's comments during the October 31, 2000 hearing in this

Richard Collier, Esquire November 2, 2000 Page 3

docket, speak for themselves. BellSouth believes a substantially higher sum is due and owing as of November 3, 2000.

We look forward to meeting with you tomorrow. Thank you again for meeting with us during yesterday and today's meetings, which we believe were conducted in good faith by the parties.

Very truly yours,

Henry Walker & C

<u>~</u>

Buy M. Hicks

w permission

GMH/jem

cc: Henry Walker, Esquire